



### **Heather Knuckles**

Family Member of Organ Donor, Resident of Missouri

#### **Background**

Heather Knuckles has lived in metro St. Louis, Missouri her entire life, as has her widowed father, her late mother and late sister. She is an Army Reserve veteran, a lover of animals, music, gardening, and traveling. She has raised and fostered many animals with her late mother.

Heather comes before the Subcommittee today regarding her mother's October 30, 2022, liver and kidney transplant. The transplanted liver contained high-grade metastatic cancer that was not reported on the donor records yet was found two days post-transplant via pathology at the transplant hospital. As a direct result of this highly aggressive adenocarcinoma, Heather's mother died on January 13, 2023—just 2.5 months post-transplant. She appears today to tell her mother's horrific story and to highlight the deadly discrepancy that occurred via the harvesting hospital and local Organ Procurement Organization (OPO).

#### **Education**

Ms. Knuckles has an Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration from St. Louis Community College, prior to her acceptance into Washington University in St. Louis where she majored in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.